

THE TOWNE HALL NEWS



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JULY 4TH FIREWORKS

Independence Day celebrations in the City of Woodstock this year will be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and Governor Kemp's large gatherings ban. The schedule is being altered in order to comply with CDC Guidelines and state restrictions. The Freedom Run has been postponed until Fall 2020. A new date for the run will be announced in the near future.

While the July 4th Spectacular Parade and Festival will not be held this year, the fireworks display in the area of Woodstock Square will continue as planned. "We consulted with elected officials, state officials and staff and determined that there is no good way to stage Woodstock's annual parade and festival this year with current restrictions in effect.

"We are proceeding with the fireworks show as regularly scheduled, given that the layout of the area that is utilized for viewing the show easily allows for social distancing," said City Manager Jeff Moon. "We strongly encourage those who gather in the area of Woodstock Square for the show to be responsible and follow CDC guidelines."

Fireworks will take place at dusk. Traffic plans will be announced in the coming weeks.

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF CALVIN MOSS

Over the last several days I have received letters, e-mails, and phone calls from Woodstock residents and people near and far, expressing concern about the events in Minneapolis, a week ago. I am grateful to each of them for trusting us to reach out.

I have had the honor of being a law enforcement officer for nearly forty years now and, suffice it to say, have seen far too many sad incidents and untimely deaths. I am intensely troubled by the video of the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis, not only as a career police officer but as a citizen of our nation. The video is reprehensible and the actions – and inactions – of the involved officers are absolutely indefensible.

As law enforcement officers, we all take an Oath to uphold the Constitution. Our charge is to protect the rights of all citizens and that duty is not vacated simply because someone is placed under arrest. Those Minneapolis officers either forgot that sacred Oath or never understood the importance of it in the first place. They failed Mr. Floyd and the very citizens they swore they'd defend, and they dishonored a profession that so many have given their lives to protect.

The video of Mr. Floyd's death has had an enormous and irreversible effect on our nation's peace officers, including the women and men of the Woodstock Police Department (WPD). It is our job to keep the peace, not to needlessly breach it. WPD responded to 31,946 dispatched calls for service in 2019 and, of the 1,435 arrests, 48 (3.3%) involved the use of some type of force. The arrestee was male in 82% of the cases and White in 67% of them. To promote transparency, our officers wear body cameras and supervisors routinely review the videos of their interactions with the public. In addition, all use of force situations are automatically reviewed by the supervisor and command staff, including me. Last year, an investigation revealed that one use of force was outside of policy. That officer is no longer with the department.

The Woodstock Police Department is one of a small number of Georgia law enforcement agencies that is both a state certified and nationally accredited. As such, we are subject to annual review by the state certification panel and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Our training is second to none and we continually reinforce appropriate principles and techniques. While the State of Georgia requires each peace officer to undergo a minimum of 20 hours of training annually, our officers attended more than 150 hours each, on average, and our instructors taught 938 instructional hours last year.

In short, we work very hard to promote the delivery of professional police services in Woodstock. We are committed to earning and keeping our citizens' trust.



WOODSTOCK PARKS AND REC ROCKS!

July is Parks and Recreation Month

Every day, in communities across the country, the people of parks and recreation are providing essential services and making their communities better places to live, work and play. Because of their critical work, NRPA wants to shift the narrative of parks and recreation – and we can't think of a better time to start this movement than Park and Recreation Month. This July, we will begin to redefine the field of parks and recreation as an essential, vital necessity by sharing how park and recreation professionals are frontline staff, confronting our most pressing health, environmental and social challenges.

The Woodstock Parks and Rec department is responsible for maintaining our 7 city parks, community garden, 14 miles of mountain bike trails and the Greenprints trail System. The department also programs some of the most loved city events including two parades, ceremonies, the Woodstock Summer Concert Series and new events aimed at providing fitness programming to our residents. They also run the Woodstock Senior Center.

Woodstock Parks and Rec is one of 178 nationally certified agencies by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). This certification, first achieved in 2013, provides quality assurance and quality improvement of accredited park and recreation agencies throughout the United States by providing agencies with a management system of best practices.

CAPRA is the only national accreditation of park and recreation agencies and is a valuable measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community.

"It is an honor to lead a great team into the next phase of accreditation and continuous improvement; involving all the staff, city leaders, and the citizens in developing an authentic parks and recreation program that is built on national standards, and designed with the needs and desires of all the citizens of Woodstock in mind." - Michael Huffstetler, Parks and Recreation Director.



Did you know?

Woodstock received a grant to design and construct a 2.5 mile extension of the Noonday Creek Trail. When complete in 2022, the trail will connect downtown to Cobb County's Noonday Creek Park on Shallowford Road.

The new downtown playground will be open in early June. Designed as a natural playground, it contains elements built for play and exploration that are not typical playground structures.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES CHANGES

Changes made due to impact of COVID-19

The Woodstock Summer Concert Series was originally scheduled to begin Saturday, May 9th but has been postponed until July 31st due to artist cancellations and protective measures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The July 11th concert in the series has been cancelled. Artist Christopher Cross was scheduled to perform that evening in Woodstock. Cross recently postponed the start of his 40th Anniversary tour and cancelled all scheduled tour dates due to complications following his diagnosis of COVID-19.

"We are hoping to schedule Christopher Cross for one of the dates of the 2021 Woodstock Summer Concert Series," said City Manager Jeff Moon. "A lot of people were looking forward to seeing Christopher Cross perform in Woodstock. We wish him well with his continued recovery."

The new schedule for the 2020 Woodstock Summer Concert Series is as follows:

Friday, July 31st: The Ultimate Queen Celebration starring Marc Martel

Saturday, August 8th: Steep Canyon Rangers

Saturday, September 12th: The Black Jacket Symphony recreates the classic album "Hotel California"

Friday, October 30th: Rumours, Fleetwood Mac tribute band

There are a few updates to concert series rules this year. No plastic sheets, blankets, towels, or tarps will be allowed. All tables are prohibited this year. Chairs will not be allowed in the park until after 6 a.m. on the day before the concert. The Woodstock Summer Concert Series is a free event presented by City of Woodstock, Carriage Kia Woodstock, and Woodstock Parks and Recreation.

Opening acts begin at 7:30 p.m. and headliners take the stage at 8:30 p.m. The event is rain or shine. There are food and beverage vendors on site and dozens of great restaurants within steps of the amphitheater, but attendees may bring small coolers of food and drinks. There is a children's area near the gazebo in the upper level of the park with face painting, balloon animals, and inflatables.

Public parking is available at Chattahoochee Technical College, at City Center, and in smaller public parking lots and on-street parking in Downtown Woodstock. Free shuttles run before and after each concert beginning at 5 p.m. and ending at 11:45 p.m. from three locations: Northside Cherokee/Towne Lake, Woodstock City Church, and Little River Elementary School. For full details on Woodstock Summer Concert Series including sponsorship information, go to woodstockconcertseries.com.

Upcoming Events

june

June 15 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
June 19-21 Citywide Yard Sale
June 20 Greenstock Day Recycling Event
June 22 CANCELLED Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council

july

July 3 City Offices closed for July 4 Holiday
July 4 Fireworks Show at dusk (see page 1)
July 9 Planning Commission 7 PM
July 13 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
July 20 Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
July 27 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
July 31 Summer Concert Series : The Ultimate Queen Celebration (see page 2)

august

Aug 6 Planning Commission 7 PM
Aug 7 Friday Night Live, Downtown Woodstock 6-9 PM
Aug 8 Summer Concert Series : Steep Canyon Rangers (see page 2)
Aug 10 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
Aug 17 Worksession of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
Aug 24 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
Aug 28 IN WDSTK Morning Influence 7:45 am



Farm. Fresh. Market.

The Woodstock Farm. Fresh. Market. is open every Saturday from 8:30-12 on Market Street in downtown. The market features around 40 vendors who are required to grow or produce at least 80% of their items locally.

To find out more about the market and steps we are taking to keep vendors and shoppers safe, please see visitwoodstockga.com/market or call 770-924-0406.

CENSUS UPDATE : EXTENDED THROUGH OCTOBER 31

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine congressional representation. It will also determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into local communities every year for the next decade.

United States®
**Census
2020**

The data gathered by the 2020 Census will influence highway planning and construction. In our local schools, census results help determine how money is allocated for the Head Start program, school lunches, and for grants that support teachers and special education. Census data helps our community respond to natural disasters and secure funding for hospitals and fire departments.

Results affect planning and funding for healthcare - including programs such as Medicaid, Medicare Part B, state children's health insurance, and the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

Households will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker. Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. 95% of households will receive their census invitation in the mail. 5% of households will receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off - these households may not receive mail at their home's physical location and use P.O. boxes instead.

The Census Bureau has special procedures to count people who don't live in households, such as students living in university housing or people experiencing homelessness.

You can still complete the Census if you have not done so yet at 2020census.gov.

SERVICE AWARDS

During their June 8 meeting, the Mayor and City Council recognized the following employees for their years of service to the city:

25 Years

Bob Kline, Police
George Williams III, Fire

20 Years

Chris Knock, Public Works

15 Years

Matthew Carroll, Police
Bryan Dumford, Water and Sewer
Paul Gentile, Police
David Gray, Fire
Elmo Phillips, Parks and Rec
Greg Roach, Public Works

10 Years

Joey Byrd, Fire

5 Years

Nik Alleyne, Police
Jesse Brookshire, Fire
Lauisa Lemon, Court
Justin Owenby, Fire



GREENSTOCK DAY RETURNS

Annual event takes place Saturday June 20

As part of continuing efforts to encourage residents to reuse, repurpose, recycle, rethink and reduce, the City of Woodstock is pleased to announce the annual Greenstock Day on Saturday June 20 (rescheduled from April) from 9 am to 1 pm at Woodstock Elementary School (230 Rope Mill Road).

This event allows residents the opportunity to drop off 'hard to recycle' items in accordance with the lists, fees and regulations listed below. Just bring the items to the school and we will unload them for you.

We want to thank our partners that help us put on this annual event : Waste Management, Premier Surplus, USAgain and A1 Shredding and Recycling. Additional information on this event can be found at woodstockparksandrec.com.

ELECTRONICS - PHONES - BATTERIES

All collections made free of charge except for televisions which require a \$25 fee; projection TVs are \$40; CRT monitors are \$10; LCD monitors are \$5. Cash only.

Please place clear tape over battery terminals prior to drop off.

COMPACT FLORESCENT BULBS

Must be in a clear plastic, sealed bag.
No long, tubular light bulbs.

TEXTILES

Clothing, shoes, belts, hats, purses and backpacks, bedding, towels, curtains, and plush toys will be accepted.

DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION

Residential, confidential documents only. Limit 8 boxes per car.

MAGAZINES - NEWSPAPERS

HEARING AIDS - EYEGLASSES

CITY-WIDE YARD SALE: June 19-21

Did you know?

Woodstock residents can request a special trash pick up anytime you have large items that cannot be sold or donated by calling Waste Management at 404-794-6707.

WOODSTOCK ADOPTS FIRST SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

By: Unwanna Etuk, Community Development Intern

This past month, the City of Woodstock took steps forward by adopting its first city-wide Sustainability Plan, a significant milestone on the community's path to going green. For over a decade, Woodstock has pursued sustainability initiatives under the guidance of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities program, working up from achieving Bronze certification level to maintaining Gold for years on end.

Now, the City leadership has built upon these successes and lessons learned to create a unique plan that highlights the strengths and pride of our community. The guiding vision behind this feat is Woodstock as home to a culture that values being informed and doing its part to protect the community's vibrancy for generations to come. This Sustainability Plan sets a path to be followed over the next five years before it is updated with new goals tailored to match our growing needs and abilities.

As the first step on this journey, the City conducted a Sustainability Assessment to evaluate existing operations and services that address elements of everyday sustainability.

The bulk of the Sustainability Plan builds on these findings by breaking down the City's priorities into several Focus Areas: Energy & Building, Land Use, Water Management, Solid Waste, Transportation, Public Outreach, and Government Operations. There are 20 overarching goals split among these Focus Areas that spell out actionable tasks with objectives and recommended strategies.

However, this document is not just for government officials to follow. Any one person can take on the tips and concepts laid out in this plan to live a more efficient, more sustainable life. In fact, the Plan was created by incorporating the ideas of active community members through participation in our Sustainability Committee and through public input activities at four public events in 2019.

A large part of the Woodstock Sustainability Plan focuses on actively engaging and properly representing the community. As a result, one of the recommended tasks calls to better inform the public by documenting sustainability events, projects, and educational materials for Woodstock residents. Keep a look out on our website and social media pages for these resources and other sustainability updates. To find the full copy of the Woodstock Sustainability Plan, please visit <https://wdstk.ga/sustainabilityplan>.



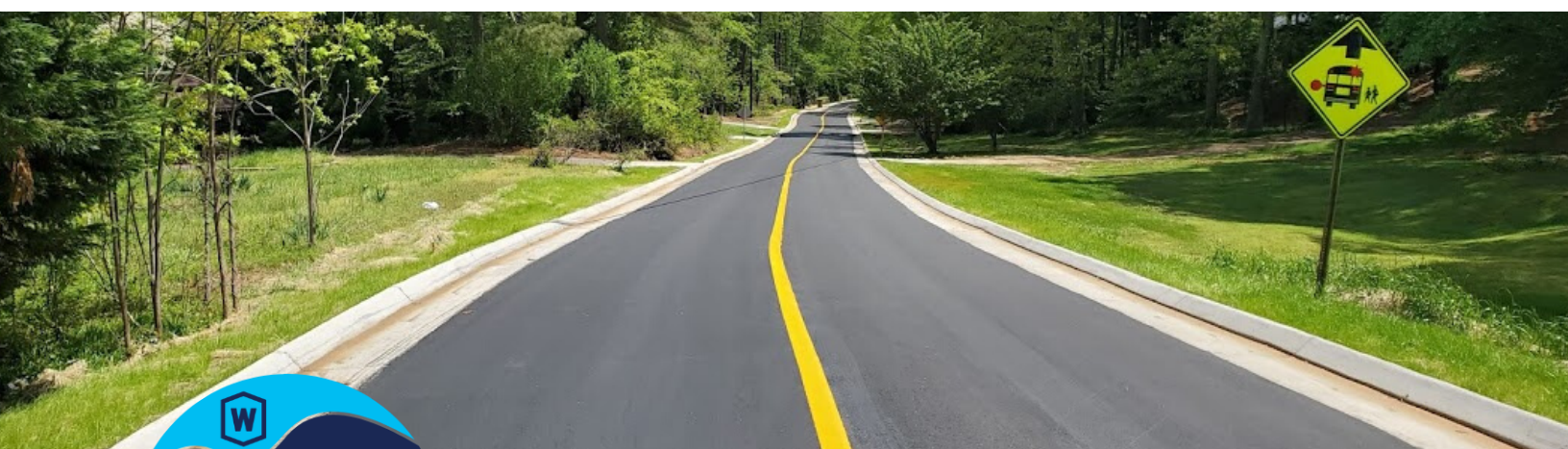
Residents speak with city staff about sustainability options during the public comment phase of the process.

NOTICE : SUMMER ROAD WORK

As part of the 2020 Resurfacing Project, C.W. Matthews Contracting Company will begin paving Monday, June 8 in parts of the City of Woodstock. The resurfacing project is subject to change depending on weather and other unknown factors. Resurfacing work is expected to take place Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., until the project is complete. On Arnold Mill Road, C.W. Matthews will pave 3.54 miles, Barnes Road to the Woodstock City Limits, as well as 1.01 miles on Barnes Road from Trickum Road to Arnold Mill Road. Just outside the City of Woodstock, C.W. Matthews will pave 2.57 miles of Lower Birmingham Road, from Batesville Road to the Fulton County Line.

“The nearly \$3 million resurfacing project is getting a quicker start than expected,” said Geoff Morton, Cherokee Community Development Agency director. “We are thankful that C.W. Matthews was able to get our projects scheduled sooner than originally planned.”

Woodstock City Manager Jeff Moon said city residents may experience delays in their travels on these area roads in coming weeks. “We ask for your patience as road crews make these roads better and safer to travel,” Moon said. “Please be mindful of signage and crews working in the area as you travel through the city of Woodstock.” The 2020 Resurfacing Project bid was awarded to C.W. Matthews in May. The \$2.99 million project is being paid for out of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds and Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance Improvement Grant funds.



Would your organization, church group, scout troop, or group of friends like to help clean up Woodstock one mile at a time? City of Woodstock is looking for interested parties to start an Adopt-a-Road project. More information and an interest form can be found at <https://wdstk.ga/adoptaroad>.

Open Burn Ban

From May 1st through September 30th, EPD's Open Burning Ban will be enforced in 54 Georgia counties, including Cherokee. The Open Burning Ban prohibits citizens and businesses from burning yard and land-clearing debris.

CITY OFFERS BUSINESSES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN 2021 DUE TO IMPACTS OF COVID-19

The City of Woodstock is implementing measures to provide financial assistance to businesses for 2021. While temporary measures were implemented to assist businesses during the COVID-19 response in the short term, this broader plan will help businesses meeting certain criteria through a longer recovery period.

Assistant City Manager Coty Thigpen presented the plan to Woodstock City Council at their June 8th meeting. Thigpen worked with CFO Ron Shelby, Community Development Director Brantley Day, Development Services Supervisor Delana Price, and Economic Development Director Brian Stockton to identify businesses including restaurants, hotels and small businesses that have helped to make the City of Woodstock a regional destination.

The City of Woodstock collects business license fees based on gross revenues. Business license fees will be waived in 2021 for small businesses with gross revenues of \$1 million and under. The \$30 administrative fee will also be waived.

An exception to this threshold will be made to include Woodstock's seven hotels because of the major impact these businesses have on tourism and economic development and due to the significant impact they experienced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The annual regulatory fee of \$250 for hotels will also be waived.

Restaurants in the City of Woodstock were also heavily impacted. Direct assistance will be provided through a \$750 renewal discount to the 63 on-premise consumption alcohol licensees. Many will also receive assistance on their business license renewal. Additionally, the City will make permanent the temporary retail package license offered during the pandemic and will extend it at no cost to the restaurants.

"It was important to our Mayor and Council to develop a mechanism to provide direct assistance to the businesses throughout our city that were most heavily impacted by Covid-19," said Thigpen. Mayor Donnie Henriques echoed, "When you think of Woodstock, there are many distinctive draws that bring people here including our network of parks and trails and our wonderful events, but our retailers and restaurants are part of that system as well, and so it was important to ensure we support the vibrancy that has become our identity as a city."

The program will be approved by a resolution adopting an amended temporary fee schedule at the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council on July 13th.



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